town and country church

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town and country church

Purposes: To encourage cooperation among rural churches • to improve local church administration in organization, finance, education, community relations, and lay leadership training • to help develop a Christian philosophy of rural life embracing ethical issues in agriculture, social reconstruction, and government

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Cover Photo

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IN THIS ISSUE . . .

• "The first thing needed by the ministry—not merely the ministers who now happen to be located in the country, but the ministry as a whole—is an introduction to their greatest ally, the agencies of the United States Department of Agriculture and state agricultural colleges. For, while our Government can not spend its resources upon churches, it is vitally interested in some of the same problems which are of utmost concern to the rural church. These agencies are working to make agriculture more profitable and to improve rural life. But how is that means to be gained? It can only be gained through these agencies getting in touch with people. Wherever there is a rural minister or a rural church interested in the productive power of the community, that leader and his group of people become a radiating center for the scientific knowledge and expert cooperation which the Government agencies wish to bring to the people. There is, then, a natural affinity between the awakened rural minister and congregation, and the agencies of the Department of Agriculture and agricultural colleges. Each one reinforces the other."

These words of Marshall Dawson quoted in United States Department of Agriculture Circular No. 57 have been our guide in putting together this issue of TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH.

Our articles touch on a number of aspects of the work and interests of the USDA; we have not, however, attempted to present the full picture of any one of these aspects or to exhaust the variety of areas in which the Department is active.

We hope that we have indicated, at least, that the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its representatives can be good friends of the rural pastor and his congregation in search of information and assistance on the problems of town and country life today.

This is our first issue under a revised format. Let us know your reactions to it.

The October issue of TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH will bring you the full program of the Denver Town and Country Convocation. We hope we'll see you there.

Contributors of articles to TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH speak for themselves and not for the National Council of Churches or sponsoring organizations.

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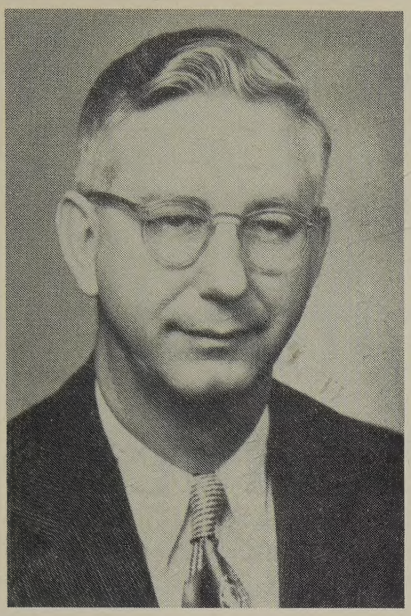

REV. SHIRLEY E. GREENE

• The Rev. Shirley E. Greene is Secretary of Town and Country Church for the Board of National Missions, Evangelical and Reformed Church. He came to this position on January 1, 1958, with a background of twenty years of specialized experience in rural work.

After graduation from the Chicago Theological Seminary in 1936, Mr. Greene became associated with Merom Institute, a rural center of the Congregational Christian Churches in southern Indiana. As research director, executive director, and pastor of rural churches, he guided the development of this pioneering regional center during its first decade of existence.

From 1947 to 1953, Mr. Greene travelled widely among rural churches in all parts of the United States encouraging educational and community action programs in the position of Agricultural Relations Secretary for the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches.

His contacts with farmers and rural people was further broadened during three and a half years which he spent on the staff of the National Farmers Union, one of America's major general family farm organizations. He served this group as Director of Education and Inter-group Relations until July 1, 1957.

On the eve of the creation of the United Church of Christ, Mr. Greene, with his Congregational Christian background, accepted the call of the Evangelical and Reformed Church to give leadership to its Town and Country Church program. He assumed full direction of this program upon the retirement of his predecessor, Dr. Claude J. Snyder, at the end of 1957.

Mr. Greene is a member of the Town and Country Department and the Department of the Church and Economic Life of the National Council of Churches. He was an agricultural consultant to the second Assembly of the World Council of Churches in 1954. He is the author of two books: *The Education of Migrant Children,* product of a research study in this field conducted under his direction; and *This Earth, This Land,* dealing with prospects and problems of the family farm.

His office is at the headquarters of the Board of National Missions at 1720 Chouteau Ave., St. Louis 3, Missouri. ■ ■

Kagawa

• When the Rev. Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa died in Tokyo April 23, the Protestant world sustained the loss of one of its most renowned leaders. From the time of his conversion to Christianity as a youth of fifteen, Kagawa gave an example of heroic evangelical poverty. At this early age he abandoned his material possessions and moved to the terrible slums of Kobe to minister to the destitute. After a decade of such strenuous social work he came to study for a divinity degree at Princeton Theological Seminary.

On Kagawa's return to Japan in 1917 he embarked on a whole series of related activities. He became greatly involved in the organization of labor unions in West Japan. While he was in prison because of his efforts on behalf of the workers in the Kobe shipyard strike, Dr. Kagawa wrote the first of his many books; his second volume, *Shooting at the Sun,* was also written in prison a year later. Both became national best sellers.

Later in his colorful career Dr. Kagawa turned his attention to the poor of the Japanese countryside. He found in cooperatives an effective means of rural self-help. So assiduous was he in developing these techniques among impoverished farmers and fishermen that he became one of the leaders of the international cooperative movement.

Dr. Kagawa was also an outstanding devotee of world peace. He courageously attacked his country's war against China in 1936 and, five years later, came here as a member of a national delegation seeking the preservation of peace between Japan and the United States. In recent years he strongly advocated the relinquishment of thermo-nuclear weapons in favor of a U.N. police force. Because of these and many other public-spirited activities, Dr. Kagawa's was a lifetime of religiously motivated dedication to the poor and to the common good. May he rest in peace. ■ ■

Reprinted from *The Commonweal,* a weekly journal of opinion edited by Catholic laymen, of May 6, 1960.

WORLD FOOD NEEDS and U. S. Agricultural Production

• World food production while almost enough in total quantity is not well distributed. In the United States, Canada, and a few other countries, farmers can produce more food than markets can readily absorb. In other areas, particularly Asia, food production is barely keeping up with the increase in population.

The free world has reason to be concerned about this situation. The emerging peoples, largely uncommitted in the rivalry between East and West, are impatient with their progress. Impatient with colonial status, they have established twenty-one new nations since 1941, and have scheduled eight more for independence in the near future. Impatient with underdevelopment, they are seeking capital needed to create jobs and purchasing power. Above all, they are impatient with their lack of food, medical facilities and housing.

Prime Minister Nehru of India has said, "You can't talk politics with a hungry man." We could add, "nor can you talk sensible business or economic policies with him."

The food problem confronting the free world today raises two questions. The first is: "Does the world have a chance to feed itself adequately?" The second: "What role can American agriculture, particularly the business of agriculture, play in helping to bring about a hunger-free world?"

Freedom from Hunger a Possibility

The world does, indeed, have a chance of winning its age-old battle against hunger. Agricultural technology, economic development, and trade eventually will help the world's people to eat better than they do today.

The role of technology:—As one who has spent much of his working life as an educator, I have faith in man's ability to learn. Nowhere has this capability been more clearly demonstrated than in the field of agricultural technology. The increase in technology has been, as the nuclear scientists put it, "exponential," each new development tending to trigger others. This buildup in agricultural knowhow, disseminated within countries through extension services and between countries through technical assistance and exchange programs, is being applied on an ever-increasing scale.

Reflecting improved technology to considerable degree, world agricultural production has increased about 35 percent from the 1935-39 average. A sharp population expansion has not completely cancelled the production gain. The per capita production rate also has been staying somewhat ahead of the pre-World War II level.

Actual world agricultural output, with a big assist from technology, is on the order of 1.7 billion long tons, in terms of wheat equivalent. For the approximately 2.8 billion people of the world, that allows an average per capita daily food intake of about 2,350 calories. There are wide variations, of course, among countries. The average for the United States is 3,100 calories; for India, it is probably less than 2,000.

An average of 2,000 calories a day isn't much of a diet. Yet it represents progress. Furthermore, it wouldn't take too much food, relatively speaking, to improve it a great deal. An increase of 15 million long tons of food grain—equal to about 1 percent of world production—would go far toward meeting to-day's minimum energy needs of the poorest-fed fourth of the world's population. Another 4 percent increase would, if distributed effectively, bring current energy intake close to optimum levels. Such increases are not beyond capabilities of the world's farmers, once technology is widely diffused and applied.

With this as background, let's look more closely at technology in the areas of heavy population and food deficits. There, of course, are where

Remarks of Dr. Max Myers, Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, at the Economics Club Banquet, South Dakota State College, Brookings, South Dakota, April 28, 1960.

food increases are most urgently needed.

The underdeveloped countries have made progress, technologically. They have, for example, developed some higher yielding crop varieties, and research is continuing. They have improved cultivating practices. They are learning how to combat locusts and other insects with new dusting and spraying techniques. In areas where practicable, they are beginning to use mechanical power. Even with limited technology they seem to be keeping per capita agricultural production on a very slight upward trend.

One of the most striking, and the most unfortunate, shortcomings of technology in the underdeveloped countries, is the limited use of fertilizers.

In all of Asia, Japan is the only major country using fertilizer extensively. India, under its five-year plans, is developing fertilizer-manufacturing capacity, but output is still far short of needs. In 1958-59, use of chemical nitrogen in all the countries of Africa and South America combined—two whole continents—was less than a fifth as much as the United States used that year.

We know in this country what fertilizer can do in raising production levels. In the United States between 1940-41 and 1955, fertilizer accounted for approximately a fourth of the increase in farm output. That's not surprising when you consider that one ton of nitrogen, plus proper amounts of phosphorus and potash, will bring into being ten tons of food grains.

Cost, of course, limits fertilizer use in the poorer countries. Fertilizer is expensive to import. It is expensive to manufacture when fertilizer-making machinery must be imported.

The role of economic development:—Economic development could provide the answer to the fertilizer shortage problem. Development also could bring expansion of irrigation, improved flood control, construction of farm-to-market roads, and erection of food storing and processing facilities. Development along these and similar lines would mean vastly expanded production capabilities in food-short countries.

Economic development would play another role—providing productive employment. Jobs put money into pockets—which enables people to buy—which, in turn, brings additional development to supply the expanding demand. Development, in brief, creates a whole new upgrading cycle. In generating jobs, not only in farming but also in manufacturing, transportation, mining, and other non-agricultural pursuits, the people of a country are able to buy food and fiber produced domestically or imported.

But there can be no half-measures when it comes to economic development. The process, in some respects, is similar to the launching of a space satellite. When power is applied in proper strength for the proper time, the satellite leaves its pad, builds up momentum gradually but swiftly, and finally "goes into orbit." If power is insufficient, or cuts off too quickly, the launching is a failure.

"Fuel" for economic development must come primarily from savings of the underdeveloped countries themselves. Significant economic growth comes, economists say, when a country is able to invest about 10 percent of its annual gross national product in future development. Some countries, as we have seen, haven't been able to save enough of their national product to carry them through the transition from a primitive to a modern economy.

Additional "fuel," in the form of economic aid and technical assistance, can supplement the efforts of an underdeveloped country. The United States has spent large sums in assisting power poorer countries of the free world. The United States has spent about $36 billion in assisting other countries since 1945. Much of the early aid was for reconstruction; recent assistance has been for development. Current outlays are on the order of $2.4 billion a year. But as Treasury Secretary Robert P. Anderson said a few months ago, the time has come for other developed countries to shoulder part of the load. For one thing, the outflow of U.S. dollars in the past two years has exceeded the inflow by about $7 billion. Furthermore, increased aid by other countries, plus what the United States can afford, would hasten economic development.

It is most important that the whole free world get on with the job. As I said earlier, the emerging countries are impatient. They know that development is essential to their long-time well-being. When the free world fails to grasp opportunities, it leaves a vacuum into which the Communist world can and does penetrate. Under such circumstances, can we expect the uncommitted countries to remain uncommitted?

Arnold Toynbee has said, "Our age will be well remembered, not for its horrifying crimes nor its astonishing inventions, but because it is the first generation since the dawn of history in which mankind dared to believe it practical to make the benefits of civilization available to the whole human race."

Making the benefits of mankind available is not only practical but also necessary. In spreading the benefits of agricultural technology and economic development, the strong countries of the free world are creating a climate in which the free world can survive. If these efforts to help other countries also have an extra dividend—prosperity and trade for the helpers—that is good.

The role of trade:—Economic development and trade are closely related.

Most countries of the world produce most of the food and feed they consume. Overall, they fall short of producing their consumption by a

little less than 10 percent. The difference—about 160 million long tons, on a wheat equivalent basis, out of total world production of 1.7 billion long tons—consists of world food, feed and fiber exports.

Remember that two general types of agricultural commodities move through trade channels. One type includes "staples," such as wheat, rice, and vegetable oils. The other type consists of what, for lack of a better term, I shall call "non-staples," such as coffee, tea and spices. The non-staples, though not essential for good nutrition, add variety and enjoyment to diets.

The underdeveloped countries, being short of foreign exchange, give import priority to staples. In 1958, over three-fifths of India's agricultural imports, on a value basis, consisted of wheat and rice. The United States, on the other hand, imports a wide variety of non-staples. Switzerland, one of the most economically developed countries in the world, imports products of both types.

It is obvious, I think, that increased agricultural technology and economic development would mean increased rather than decreased trade.

Japan's recent history gives an example of what I mean. At the end of the war, Japan was in bad shape economically. Its industry, transportation, and ocean shipping were largely destroyed. The United States extended large-scale economic aid, which Japan used for rehabilitation. Today, Japan is one of the world's foremost buyers of agricultural products, and a major buyer from us.

Western Europe is another example. This area is becoming increasingly prosperous as a result of its steady economic development. Business is good; people are employed at high wages. When incomes of consumers rise, consumption of animal protein—meat, poultry, eggs, and dairy products—also rises. In Europe that has meant expanded herds and flocks. This enlarged European livestock industry has meant for the United States larger exports of feed grains and soybeans. Exports of these commodities in the current 1959-60 fiscal year will set new records.

There has been a substantial export movement from the food-surplus countries to the food-deficit countries—a movement that does not quite fit the definition of "trade," as we usually think of it. These exports, handled under special programs which I shall discuss a little later, tend to equalize to some extent the world's food supplies.

U. S. Agriculture's Place in the World Food Picture

Now let's take up my second question—"What role can American agriculture play in bringing about a hunger-free world?"

Current food exports:—I doubt very much that the American people, or the people of foreign countries, fully realize what the United States already is doing in the way of meeting urgent world food needs. Here are a few figures which may put the U.S. effort into perspective.

The value of U.S. agricultural exports the past three years has averaged more than $4 billion annually. Over the same period the value of world agricultural trade, in terms of 1952-54 prices, has averaged about $27 billion. In other words, the United States with only a very small percentage of the world's agricultural producers, turned out about 15 percent of the world's total exports.

In the current 1959-60 fiscal year, U.S. exports will have an export market value of $4.5 billion—the second-best export year on record. Shipments will represent the output from about 50 million acres of cropland—approximately equal to all the harvested acreage of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Production from one out of every six and one-half acres is going abroad.

Here's another measure of the program's size. Our exports in 1959 would fill about 800,000 freight cars —enough to make two solid freight trains stretching all the way across the country from San Francisco to New York City.

Food for Peace:—These substantial shipments are in line with the objectives of President Eisenhower's program to make effective use of our agricultural abundance in the interests of world stability and peace. Our U.S. farm products are helping to build the strength of the free world, not only by meeting immediate needs of friendly foreign people, but also by promoting economic development. These are benefits of inestimable value to recipients of our exports.

Exports of $3.3 billion, or close to three-fourths of total U.S. shipments in fiscal 1959-60, will represent sales for dollars. This is good. The people of the world would rather pay for their food than have it given to them. Of course. when needy countries lack dollars with which to buy, special programs must be devised. That is why roughly a fourth of U.S. exports have moved under "special" programs, such as sales for foreign currencies, barter, and donations.

We needn't apologize for the fact that in helping strengthen the free world, we are at the same time helping ourselves. We are doing this in two major ways. First, agricultural exports are bolstering farmers' prices and incomes, thereby strengthening the national economy. Exports on the order of $4.5 billion obviously mean additional income for farmers. Also, exports lessen supplies hanging over the market, tending to strengthen domestic farm commodity prices. Second, exports—over and above the promotion of world peace and stability—promote specific American foreign policy objectives. Through our expanded export program we are making friends in many parts of the world. That is a priceless asset in these days of strong international tensions.

The United States has a long record of using food for peace. You will recall that at the end of World War I, this country sent vast supplies of food to war-ravaged areas of Europe. During World War II, our slogan was, as you'll recall, "Food will win the war and write the peace." At the end of the war, nationwide campaigns were carried on to conserve food and ship it to needy people in Europe and Asia.

The present program of expanded exports is completely in keeping with our forty-year-old tradition of extending a helping hand.

Dollar sales important:—As I say, we can be glad that the bulk of our exports represent sales for dollars. The Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with agriculture and industry groups, is making a strong bid to develop even larger dollar markets. This policy is in line with President Eisenhower's recent message to Congress, in which he outlined a number of steps the Government will take to expand exports of U.S. products.

Let me tell you about one market development project.

Along in 1955, a Department of Agriculture poultry marketing specialist called on the head of a large Swiss retail grocery concern. The specialist had an idea that the high-quality broiler chickens produced in the United States were tailor-made, so to speak, for Switzerland. The specialist's enthusiasm was contagious. The Swiss firm placed a trial order. Swiss consumers liked the U.S. broilers and asked for more. The grocery firm re-ordered. Before long, other food importers climbed on the band-wagon. It has turned out to be a real marketing breakthrough. Sales jumped from virtually nothing prior to 1955 to over 20 million pounds last year. Bigger exports are expected this year.

Many techniques of market development are being used. In Japan a cooperative market promotion project is based largely on the use of "kitchen buses," which visit all parts of the country to demonstrate meals featuring wheat and soybean products. Foreign cotton processors, cooperating with the American cotton industry, are carrying on programs stressing new cotton finishes, improved fabric construction, wash and wear properties, and opportunities for industrial use. The soybean industry, cooperating with the Department of Agriculture, will embark this year on mutual market promotion undertakings in over thirty countries. Projects are under way for other commodities.

Trade fairs have been an effective way of showing off the wide variety and high quality of U.S. farm products. To date, the Department of Agriculture has taken part in over forty fairs, attended by some 25 million people.

Market development work won't produce overnight miracles. It must be carried on methodically—and continuously. The export of quality products must be stressed all along the line. Prices must be kept competitive—and that means, for some price supported commodities including cotton, wheat, and rice, export subsidies.

There must be active sales effort by the trade at all times. In this connection, the Department of Agriculture agency that I represent —the Foreign Agricultural Service —can assist the trade with "agricultural intelligence." I refer to facts and figures on foreign production, consumption, crop conditions, exports, imports, tariffs, and the like. This information comes from agricultural attaches stationed at fifty-three posts throughout the world and from the special studies of marketing and area specialists. Bankers, warehousemen, shippers, transportation agencies, and other business groups interested in exports or imports can benefit from the timely, comprehensive reports regularly

Church World Service photo

available from the Foreign Agricultural Service.

I want to turn now to some of the "special" programs.

Special programs:—Earlier this month the largest single cargo of corn in maritime history was shipped from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Uruguay. The shipment of over a million and a half bushels, valued at over $2.1 million, was sold for Uruguayan currency under Public Law 480. But perhaps I ought to back up a little.

As I mentioned earlier, a little over a fourth of our exports are going out under special Government programs. These special operations, by and large, are aimed at meeting urgent needs of underdeveloped countries lacking foreign exchange that can be used in purchasing food and fiber. Most of the exports under special Government programs are under authority of Public Law 480. This legislation, enacted in 1954, authorizes sales for foreign currencies, barter, and donations.

P.L. 480 operations gear in well with objectives of the Food for Peace program. P.L. 480 shipments are going primarily to the areas of greatest need. In authorizing the acceptance of foreign currencies for U.S. food and fiber, P.L. 480 makes it possible for underdeveloped countries to use their scarce foreign exchange for economic development and related purposes. More than that, about half of the foreign currencies generated under P.L. 480 sales have been returned to foreign governments as loans or grants for economic development.

A special effort has been made to use wheat in the P.L. 480 program as a strong foundation stone of the Food for Peace program. Wheat is a "natural" for large-scale relief feeding. It is a food; most of the world's people know how to use it; it is easily stored; it is the food commodity in heaviest supply in the United States.

In seeking to develop improved and new approaches to the problem of world hunger, using wheat, we have enlisted the participation of other countries. We have held meetings with the major wheat-exporting nations: Canada, Australia, Argentina, and France, with FAO present in observer-adviser capacity. Together, we have organized a Wheat Utilization Committee which has been meeting periodically. A special mission representing this committee has just returned from the Far East, and will soon release a report on possibilities of making more use of wheat in that area.

Government gifts of surplus commodities for disaster relief and donations of U.S. products have helped to feed school children, disaster victims, refugees, and other needy people throughout the world. These donations are handled through Government agencies, international organizations, and voluntary U.S. relief groups.

The special programs have limitations.

Unduly heavy shipments would disturb world prices and commercial trade operations of the United States and friendly foreign countries. Even without this factor in the picture, most underdeveloped countries lack distribution facilities for a large inflow of food commodities outside of established commercial channels.

In most of the underdeveloped countries it is the commercial distribution system through which food normally flows. Neither facilites nor organizations exist to handle greatly expanded imports of donated commodities. Actually it frequently is easier to sell food than to give it away.

The special export programs are not the answer to domestic farm problems. Exports can take some of the pressure off supplies, but they cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, absorb at this time all the production our highly efficient American agriculture can make available. Domestic farm problems, by and large, will require domestic solutions.

But if the advantages and limitations are recognized, the special export programs can continue to be effective supplements to commercial operations. Both types of programs are needed in helping to meet the food needs of many parts of the world.

Summary

In conclusion, I will summarize briefly the ground I have covered.

We have areas of the world where hunger introduces serious political problems. Can the free world help the needy countries feed themselves more adequately?

Hunger could be lessened or even eliminated through more widespread application of agricultural technology, with special emphasis on increased fertilizer use. Economic development, a responsibility of the entire free world, can play a part in extending technology. Agricultural trade can help to even out differences between the food-surplus and food-deficit nations.

As the world's largest exporter of food and fiber, the United States is doing much, as President Eisenhower has proposed, in the way of using agricultural abundance to promote peace.

If we appraise the world food situation in almost brutally relative terms, we can be glad that the world has *only* chronic malnutrition —*only* hunger. I say "only" because, contrary to popular opinion, there has been no widespread famine in the world in the past fifteen years —no "millions of starving people" anywhere. There have been few reports of even isolated pockets of famine. Mankind can be thankful that it has been spared the horror of mass starvation.

Eventually, even hunger will be eliminated. It will be eliminated because the conscience of the free world will insist upon its elimination. It is true that the goal of a hunger-free world seems, at the moment, difficult and distant. But it is clearly attainable. And since it is attainable, men will one day reach it.

Yes, our troublesome paradox gives us some very serious problems. But solution of the problems will bring opportunities—great opportunities. There will be opportunities in terms of trade. Most important, there will be opportunities in terms of world stability and peace—and better living for all people. ■

Do You Need Money? . . .

The Rural Credit Union and Your Community

• Is your community concerned about improving the financial security of its people? Do you need some way to encourage them to build up cash reserves for a "rainy day"? Would it help if you and your neighbors had a fund from which loans could be made to those who need to borrow?

If so, you may be interested in the objectives and programs of rural credit unions.

Credit unions cannot, of course, be expected to supply all the needed credit in a given community—or even a major part of it. But by encouraging the accumulation and use of local funds, they do reinforce and supplement the programs of other rural lending agencies such as Production Credit Associations, National Farm Loan Associations, insurance companies, local banks, and the Farmers Home Administration. In addition, they provide a common meeting place for the man with money to lend and the man who needs to borrow.

What It Is

The rural credit union is a cooperative type of savings and lending association operated for the mutual benefit of its members. Its purpose is twofold: (1) to promote thrift among its members by encouraging them to open savings accounts and to build up cash reserves, and (2) to provide a readily available source of credit for those of its members who need to borrow.

It is a self-help type of program —a do-it-yourself tool rural people can use to strengthen their own financial position and thus help build up the resources of the local community. Credit unions are member-owned and operated. They incorporate under either state or federal laws.

Members need some common bond as a group to get a charter, such as membership in a farmer cooperative, a farm organization, a rural church or residence in a specific rural area.

A board of directors, a credit committee for approving loans, and a supervisory committee for general regulatory supervision and audit work are elected by the members.

The directors than elect, from their own number, administrative officers—president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. The elected officials and the directors establish the operating program and overall policies. The treasurer, as general manager, conducts day-to-day operations—including savings and lending transactions, bookkeeping reports, and the like. The treasurer-manager and the needed office staff may be paid; other officials are not.

Good Management Essential

There are three basic requirements for the successful operation of a credit union. First, you must have interested and able leadership from the board of directors. Second, you must have honest, efficient, aggressive management. And, third, you will need an effective educational program to develop membership understanding and participation.

In this respect, credit unions sponsored by farmer cooperatives have certain advantages. For example, the cooperative can help provide general assistance in many ways. The cooperative may provide office space and, until the credit union becomes large enough to have its own employees, an employee of the cooperative can handle its affairs on a part-time basis. News stories, announcements, and general educational information can be carried in the cooperative's membership publication. Annual membership meetings may be held in conjunction with the cooperative's annual meeting, assuring larger attendance than otherwise might be the case.

Where To Go For Help

If you should decide to explore the possibilities of organizing a credit union in your community, you can get help from several sources.

In most states, credit unions have organized State Credit Union Leagues to provide field service and specialized materials. A state league can give all the guidance and assistance necessary for new groups getting started—even to the extent of sending out a man to help with the organizational procedure. If you do not know where to contact your state league or a credit union cooperating locally, write to the Credit Union National Association, 1617 Sherman Avenue, Madison 1, Wisconsin. ■

Excerpts from Rural Resource Leaflet No. 8, July, 1959, Committee for Rural Development Program.

A Library on Your Doorstep

Library Services for Rural People

• Basically, every community—every person, young or old—needs to have a local source of reliable information on which to base sound judgments and wise actions on many matters of personal and public concern; information on ways of making a living and aid in understanding their community, the nation, and the world.

Your modern public library helps satisfy these needs. The modern library is a gigantic service agency. It must be efficiently organized. Its strength lies in skilled, informed personnel, quantities of books, magazines, films, pictures, recordings and pamphlets. There must be materials for all ages, adequate equipment, suitable housing and also a sufficient annual budget to keep the operation in high gear.

The Response to the Need

One of the problems often raised in rural areas is the apparent difficulty of providing good library service where towns are small and rural people are widely scattered. The fact that this problem has been solved by pioneering, experimentation, and demonstration may not be widely enough known. The solution is relatively simple: People have taken the basic solution worked out by large city libraries—central library, well-located branches, and mobile libraries—and adapted it to rural areas.

The idea of rural public library service is not really new—the first "bookmobile" goes back to horse-and-buggy days—but knowledge of how modern, adequate service can be given economically in rural areas is fairly recent. Today's rural library service is at about the same stage of development that city library service was fifty years ago. We know how to go about providing good rural library service—but so far have done relatively little about it!

But things *are* stirring in rural America. The rapidity of modern communications, improved rural schools, the increasing numbers of rural youth who go on to high school and college, and the increasing amenities in rural life, such as electricity, are all bringing changes.

Rural people today have the same kinds of economic and "job" problems and the same need to understand national and international events that city people have. Their curiosity is stimulated by the same newspapers, magazines, radio and TV shows. They have the same cultural interests. And now—finally—they are beginning to have similar amounts of leisure and access to a wider range of community services for education, culture, and recreation.

A Public Library System in a Rural Area

When the question arises as to the best ways of obtaining the best possible public library service, it is well to examine current thought on library development. Systems with stress on cooperation and local autonomy are now considered to provide the best approach. The new public library standards, for example, are no longer based on the individual library but rather on systems of libraries.

This idea of systems is perhaps best understood through a description of a library system serving four counties with a total population of about 100,000. This library system was organized after a citizen campaign by the joint action of the four county governing bodies. The annual budget is provided by county taxes with each county paying its prorata share. In some states, such libraries also receive annual grants from the state; but in this particular state, there are no grants. The library is governed by a library board

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Excerpts from United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin No. 2142. The Bulletin was prepared for the USDA by a committee of the American Library Association headed by Hannis S. Smith, Director of Libraries, Minnesota State Department of Education. The Library Services Branch, U.S. office of Education, acted as adviser.

of eight members, two from each county, who are appointed by their county governing bodies. This board appoints the head librarian and determines operating and service policies.

Staff

To provide service to the four counties, this library system has a staff of thirteen professionally trained librarians and thirty-six other library workers, some of whom are part-time, including typists and bookmobile drivers. Inservice training programs, conducted by the head librarian with the help of the state library extension agency, help all of these people do a better job in their own special assignments.

Location

The largest city in the area, with a population of nearly 20,000, is the shopping center for the four counties. Logically it is the best location for the library center which doubles both as the local public library and as the headquarters for the regional library system. Here, the library performs all the administrative and clerical "chores" and behind the scenes work, which must be done if the library is to do its job effectively and economically. The central processing office "turns books into *library* books" by cataloging and preparing them for use by the public. It is from this center that the book distribution and exchanges with other libraries takes place, and it is from here that bookmobiles load up and go out to the four counties.

Operation

There are eleven smaller local libraries in eleven different towns in the four counties. Each of these maintains regular hours with a resident librarian in charge. All have collections varying from hundreds to thousands of books which are exchanged with the headquarters and with each other as rapidly as they are finished by readers in the local community. This greatly increases the number and variety of books available to each of them and makes for maximum use of all books in the four counties. Collections include books for young and old—for information, for recreation, and for inspiration.

Only three of these local libraries were in existence before the regional system was formed. The other eight have been established since that time by the regional library working with local communities. The three established libraries decided to join in with the system but at first kept their own books rigidly separated from those which came from the regional library. However, since the regional book collection has grown, and the number of books available to these libraries has increased, they are now beginning to turn most of their older books over to the regional library in order to have room for newer and more up-to-date books on their shelves. They have found that they not only have more books but also more new books available than ever before as they can now draw upon regional resources.

These libraries have retained their individuality and autonomous character while benefiting from the library system. A recent visitor to one

Now ready

An Order of Service for a
Harvest Festival
1960

Each year the Department of Town and Country Church of the National Council of Churches prepares an order of service for a Harvest Festival.

The service for 1960 was prepared for the department by the Rev. John R. Kelly, minister of The First Congregational Church, Burbank, California. In addition to the order of service containing responsive readings and suggested hymns, there is data on the origin of the Harvest Festival.

The service, printed in rust brown on crisp white stock, is illustrated with a rural harvest scene.

It is a four-page bulletin, measuring 5½″ x 8½″.

Single copies, 5¢ each. 100 copies for $2.50.

ORDER FROM: *The Office of Publication and Distribution*
National Council of Churches
475 Riverside Drive
New York 27, New York

of them was "astonished to see how many good books—and new books—you have. How do you do it in such a small town?"

The library system operates three bookmobiles. The timing of bookmobile stops is planned so that every resident will have library service within a mile of his house at least twice a month.

Financing Rural Library Service

Library service—like any other public service such as police protection and public health—costs money. People know that a good public school requires so much per pupil to operate. Librarians, concerned with giving the best service for the tax dollar, began some years ago to determine how much good library service costs for each person to be served. The important fact that showed up is that it costs more per person to serve a few people than it does to serve many.

To take a simple example, let us say that a community of 50,000 people appropriates $4 per capita for its library service and another community of 100,000 appropriates $2 per capita. The annual budget of the two libraries is the same. They can keep open about the same number of hours, maintain much the same type of library services, and purchase about the same number of books covering the same range of age levels and reader interests. But one library is serving twice as many people as the other. Recent careful studies indicate that if a library is to be organized and supported economically and efficiently, the 100,000 population mark is the beginning of real efficiency and economy.

Suggestions for Action

For Immediate Book Needs

If you have no local community library and until a county or regional library has been developed, you may want to—

(1) Write to your state library extension agency for individual books by mail.

(2) Ask one of your local organizations to borrow a collection of books (traveling library) from the state library extension agency after you have helped to find a good place for it and a good person to check out the books to the reader.

But do not let these interim solutions prevent the development of good local library service in your area.

For a County or Regional Library

A county or regional library movement may spring from the interest of one person or one organization. From this small beginning must come interest and action by all kinds of people in all parts of the county or region and by many organizations. Here are some of the steps as outlined by the American Library Association:

(1) *Write to the state library extension agency at the state capital.* Find out about the laws under which a library can be established in your state. Find out about the particular type of library service that would best fit your county or region.

(2) *Talk to other people you think would be interested.* See that the farmers, businessmen, school officials, housewives, friends, and neighbors are well informed about the proposal and understand the details of the library project. To be successful it must be a real citizen's movement. Among those to be consulted at the beginning are the county superintendent of schools and his supervising teachers, the county agricultural agent and county home demonstration agent, members of county governing bodies, and representatives of such civic organizations as community clubs, men's clubs, veterans' organizations, cooperatives, women's clubs, and farm organizations active in the county. If librarians and trustees in the area are active, work with them too.

(3) *Organize an active committee from the whole county or region.* The committee must have an alert chairman and include men and women representative of all interests and groups. In the early stages of the campaign they should see newspaper editors and use the radio and television. But they should keep in mind the value of person-to-person discussion and not depend only on mass communications. Printed material, such as an attractively printed leaflet or folder on the county library plan, should be available for distribution. The committee should hold frequent meetings at which plans can be made for local community programs on this subject.

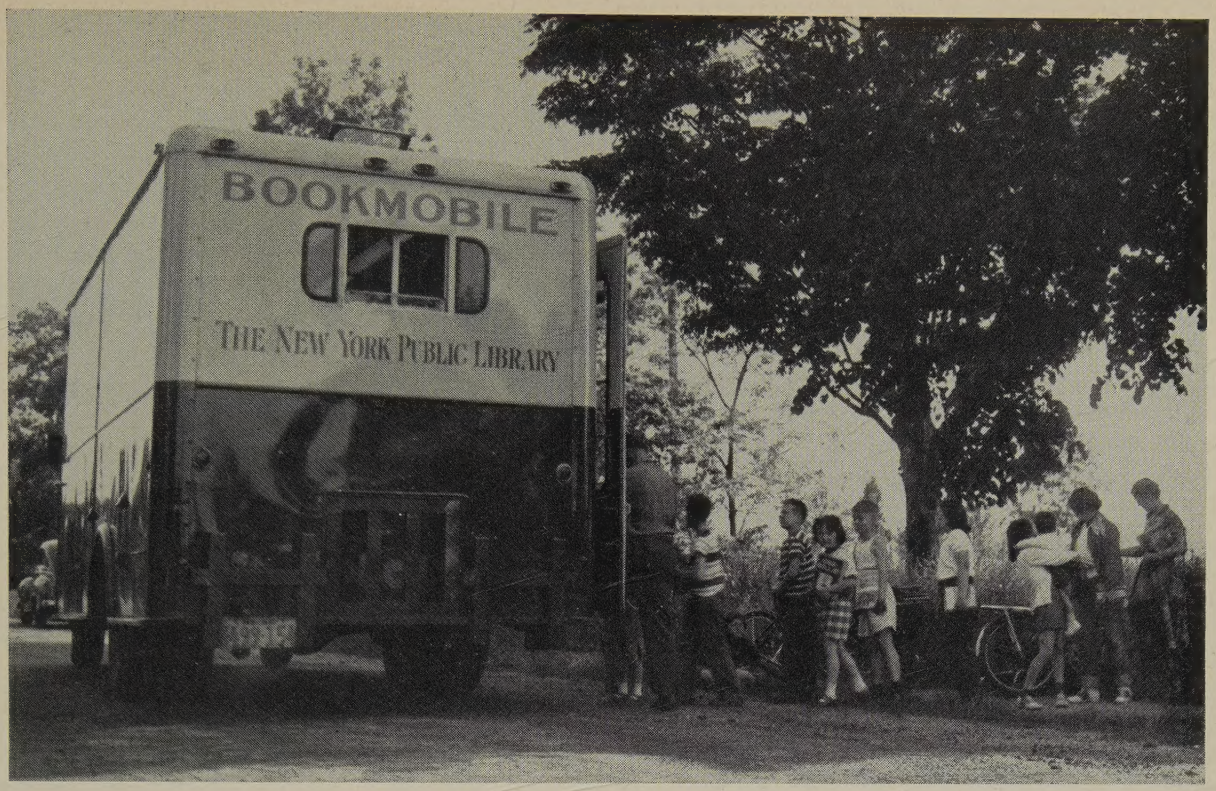
(4) *Invite a worker from the state library extension agency to a county or regional meeting.* People will have done enough thinking about the county or regional library by this time so that they can begin asking more specific questions about how it really would work and how much it will cost. The state worker can also discuss library needs and the legal organization of the county or regional library.

(5) *When all the steps have been taken to inform people, draw up a definite plan for an appropriation with the officials of the county or region.* Before approaching the county board of commissioners with this request you should be ready to answer the questions they will probably ask. They are faced with budget request from many groups and cannot adequately evaluate the library's needs unless convincing explanations are offered. It may be advisable to visit the individual members in advance to explain just what you want and why, for money is always scarce and there never seems to be a "good" year.

(6) *Obtain formal action on the plan by the necessary governing body.* The committee must "sell the idea" for the county or regional library before the request for its establishment is presented officially. The American Library Association advises that the budget request be adequate to provide the quality and quantity of library staff, books, and other library materials and equipment. It is best not to ask for too little since that invites failure of the project. Experience indicates that if you have a good case, you are likely eventually to get what you need, even if it takes several years of effort.

For the State as a Whole

A state organization may help its



New York Public Library photo

smaller units get the library service they need by action for the state as a whole. The American Library Association suggests that the state leader or group may—

(1) Obtain information (by writing to or visiting the state library extension agency) on the state's plan for developing local library service, on the state law that permits the establishment of county or regional libraries, on any state aid available, or on campaign materials for obtaining state aid.

(2) Report local book needs and interest in library service to the state library extension agency.

(3) Distribute state agency leaflets on library needs and plans.

(4) Work with other state groups to strengthen the state library extension agency.

(5) Cooperate with state library associations in programs to provide or promote more complete library service to all residents of a state.

(6) Sponsor appropriate legislative action for the development of library service for all the people. ■ ■

A TRIBUTE

Mrs. Ruth Robinson terminated her relationship with the Department of Town and Country Church and as Editor of the TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH last January. As many of you already know, Mrs. Robinson relinquished this post after almost a decade of faithful and unstinting service. She justly deserves the gratitude of the Committee on Management of the Department of Town and Country Church, and the readers of this journal. She leaves a standard of performance well worth emulating. It has, therefore, been a difficult responsibility, as well as a privilege, to assume her duties.

Mrs. Robinson has always enjoyed the cooperation she has received in the past from contributors, both solicited and unsolicited. I know that the same spirit of cooperation will be forthcoming in the future as in the past. Indeed, I wish to make a plea for even more active participation in making contributions to the TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH. Obviously, the success of this journal depends largely upon the contributors.

We do trust that you are pleased with the changes in format of the TOWN AND COUNTRY CHURCH and remind you that we will always be pleased to receive your comments, praises or criticisms.

William A. Carhart

Stewardship of Natural Resources

One of Our Greatest Allies

• The strength of a nation is dependent upon its God-given natural resources and the manner in which they are used by its people. No nation in the history of the world has assumed an important position of leadership except it had a productive soil, an abundant supply of water, and a climate which enabled these resources to be used to advantage by its people.

Replaceable and Irreplaceable Resources

We need to think of our natural resources in two categories: those which are replaceable, such as timber and water; and those which are irreplaceable, such as minerals. Soil occupies a somewhat intermediate position. We may lose, through utterly destructive uses, the topsoil on a hillside, but the subsoil itself remains and if properly managed may be brought back to a measure of the original productivity of the topsoil. So we might say that soil should be considered in the category of trees and water, rather than as absolutely irreplaceable, as are minerals. As for the replaceable resources, we can never restore the vast original forests, but we can replace them with trees which at least approach the value of the original growth. Similarly, our supply of water is being constantly replenished as it falls from the skies each year. Irreplaceable resources such as minerals and oil, once used, are gone forever.

Water—Essential to Life

One of the ways in which we come into most intimate contact with our natural resources is in our water supply. We turn the faucet in order to secure a glass of water, without a thought as to its source. Little do we realize the various stages and steps through which that water has passed since it fell as raindrops on a field or wooded hillside. That which fell on open fields, as it ran down the slopes, picked up tiny particles which were carried some distance, possibly not coming to rest until it reached a city reservoir.

Waste Is Sinful

But there are sins of omission as well as sins of commission. To use a biblical quotation, "If any man knows what is right and fails to do it, it is sin." I don't think we would be stretching the interpretation of this statement too far if we say it applies to the use of our God-given resources.

When we consider that in many over-populated areas of the world today, millions of people go from infancy to old age without ever having been entirely free from the pangs of hunger, the sinful aspect of our misuse of our abundant natural resources becomes more apparent. This is especially true now when we know that proper use of our land means more efficient utilization, as well as the maintenance of a productive soil for future generations.

As we come more and more to recognize religion as providing a practical guide for our daily living, we cannot fail—it seems to me—to accept the implications of God's beneficient gifts to us as a nation and as inividuals.

Long ago the Psalmist said, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help." We, too, lift up our eyes unto the hills of our country, we gaze upon its rolling and level fields, we view the bountiful supply of water flowing in our streams, we realize anew that the future strength of our country is dependent upon the manner in which we use these precious resources—the gift of an Omnipotent Creator—and we resolve to be good stewards of that which has been entrusted to our care. ■ ■

From an address by T. S. Buie, State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service, Columbia, S. C., at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, Georgia.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE CELEBRATES ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

• The twenty-fifth anniversary of the passing of the original soil conservation act of April 27, 1935, was widely celebrated. Soil conservation districts took the lead, but many individuals and organizations also honored this occasion. The climax of a week of special congratulations came at a banquet in Washington, D.C., on May 4, sponsored by the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. At the banquet, held in the National Press Club, William E. Richards, president of the NASCD, presented to Donald A. Williams, SCS Administrator, a handsome brass plaque. ■ ■

BOOK REVIEWS

The Church in the World of Radio-Television. By John A. Bachman. New York, Association Press, 1960. $3.00.

What is the nature and responsibility of American radio and television today? What stance should the Church take in relation to these media? How ought the Church use these media for the communication of the Christian message? These are the fundamental questions with which Dr. John Bachman deals in *The Church in the World of Radio-Television.* A professor of communications and Director of the Audio-Visual Center of Union Theological Seminary, Dr. Bachman is well qualified for this undertaking. Although not formally a report or study document, it reflects much of the thinking of a current Study Commission of the National Council of Churches on the Role of Radio, Television and Film in Religion. Dr. Bachman has served as a member of this Commission.

There is reflected in this book a very realistic appraisal of the communications industry today, its weaknesses, strengths, dilemmas, and successes. Any discussion of the Church's role in communications media must begin there.

There runs through Dr. Bachman's discussion of the industry a basic affirmation and acceptance resting on the theological ground that nothing in God's creation is inherently evil. By the same token, neither is its goodness guaranteed. A basic criterion for evaluating the product of mass communications media is very helpfully presented. "Is man treated as man or less-than-man?"

The Church can use the media in several ways: for the creation of a climate favorable to both the institution and the message, for worship, for evangelism, and for religious instruction. No one of these should be done to the exclusion of others.

Of particular vocational interest to Christian educators is the emphasis on the educational use of the media, both that which is formally religious and that which is "commercial." The opportunities for using these media for enriching Christian educational programs are thoughtfully presented. There is also a discussion of religious educational television.

This is no book of program ideas for the religious broadcaster. Its purpose is the discussion of the broad issues anyone concerned with Christian communication must face. Insights into what the Church ought to be doing, however, can come if the religious broadcaster approaches these issues with an open, searching mind.

There are two additional elements which this reviewer would like to have seen in the book. One is a critical appraisal of what the churches currently are presenting on television. A more critical appraisal from the author's standpoint would have been enlightening. The second element that might have been included is a more detailed discussion of what the church ought to be doing. Dr. Bachman suggests a more vital relationship of Christianity and the arts. An expanded elaboration of this point would have been welcome.

Dr. Bachman is refreshingly realistic in pointing out that there are no panaceas and no easy answers. This in itself commends the book to the battle-scarred religious broadcaster and should stimulate creative thought on the part of those who can influence religious broadcasting —the lay public, and especially the Christian teacher who is himself confronted with similar problems of communication.

—Alva I. Cox, Jr.

Reprint from the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, April, 1960.

The Storm and the Rainbow. By Dr. Lowell R. Ditzen. Henry Holt and Co., Inc. New York, 1959.

Dr. Ditzen examines "Ways to Understand and Meet our Personal Tragedies" with wisdom, insight and warmth. In this new book he shares his own comforting and triumphant discoveries and gives countless examples of how others have found the road back to faith and fulfillment in the wake of personal tragedy and suffering.

There is an intimacy about this book which makes you feel that Dr. Ditzen has written it for you personally. In a sense he has done just that, because of his enormous sensitivity which makes it possible for him to identify himself with the deep need and sorrows of others. The advice given is not the outcome of a platitudinous philosophy, but is born of a deep compassion that only personal suffering and its hard-earned victory can bring.

Essentially, *The Storm and the Rainbow* is a book of a great and abiding faith reaching out to the Eternal Light for illumination in the darkness of sorrow.

(*Continued on page* 16)

Rev. Dumont Clarke Founder of Lord's Acre Dies

• The Rev. Dr. Dumont Clarke, who was director of religious work at the Lord's Acres, Ashville, N. C., from 1927 to 1955, died at his summer home in Vermont on June 22, 1960.

Dr. Clarke was the founder and promoter of the Lord's Acre movement which encouraged the dedication of farm projects as the members' contribution to the Church. He graduated from Princeton University in 1905 and received an honorary degree there in 1955. He studied also at Union, McCormick, and the former Auburn (N.Y.) Theological Seminaries.

Dr. Clarke was the author of *Master Thoughts*—a book compiled of biblical verses. ■ ■

Book Reviews, cont.

This book is written for everyone, not only for those in immediate need. It anticipates the unknown, and lines us up with those attitudes of faith and courage which could serve us well when we are in need of them.

Reprint from the REFORMED CHURCH BEACON, Bronxville, New York.

Church Bells in Many Tongues. By Ralph A. Felton, Published by the author, 1958.

Three-fourths of all the world's people are still rural. The church in every land has the responsibility of kindling hope, and of bringing all the implications of the Gospel to bear upon the human situation of rural people. The success or failure of the rural churches across the world depends very largely upon the quality and Christian consecration of the pastors who are the shepherds of these flocks of God everywhere.

This book tells the stories of 35 rural pastors in 19 different countries, and is illustrated with striking pictures of them and their people engaged in the multitude of tasks which a rural pastor finds to do. These pastors are of a dozen different denominations. Not all of them are highly trained. But as one reads the fascinating thumb-nail sketches of their ministry, certain common traits stand out. These men love rural people; they are not poised for flight to the city. They are discovering and putting into practice the rich implications of the Gospel for rural communities and people; thus their Gospel is relevant. They are resourceful and tireless.

It is good to have this little book, for the stories of rural pastors have seldom been told. A rare Oberlin has had a good press and a truly distinguished career. But here are a few representatives of a great host of selfless, resourceful, devout Christian pastors who are ringing the church bells of Christian hope and love in the villages and countrysides of the world. The book should be read by the common folk of our churches all over, to kindle their faith. Rural pastors everywhere will receive stimulating new ideas as they read of how other pastors have successfully shared the Gospel with rural people. The stories are of uneven quality, and not all of the pictures really advance the stories. But on the whole the book is good. A few years ago, Friendship Press published an earlier book by Dr. Felton, *Hope Rises From the Land,* telling the story of successful rural missionary projects. This should be even more significant, for these are the men of the very soil; they are now the spiritual leaders of the people.

Dr. Felton has greatly enriched rural church life by his many studies of the Church and its ministry. And he has been an inspiring teacher. Now, story-books like these from his pen should greatly kindle faith that the training of men for the rural pastorate has been worthwhile.

The book is attractively printed in a good paper-back format, and is a most valuable book for church libraries, rural pastors, and students preparing for the rural pastorate.

—Edward K. Ziegler

National Convocation
ON THE Church IN Town and Country

Denver, Colorado

October 18-20, 1960

Theme: Planning for Mission

SPEAKERS AND RESOURCE PERSONS:

H. Conrad Hoyer
Victor Obenhaus
Henry S. Randolph
Rockwell C. Smith
William G. Stucky
Harold B. Swanson
Bishop Edwin E. Voigt

Please register before October 1, 1960

For further information write:

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